

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action dated May 16, 2007. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,868,754 ("Levine"). The rejections from the Office Action dated May 16, 2007 are discussed below. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Levine. The rejection is respectively traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a wire guide comprising an elongate member defining a loop. Claim 1 requires a "closure member closing the loop, wherein the closure member is fixedly connected to the elongate member at a plurality of spaced apart locations." The "plurality of spaced apart locations" are further defined as being "disposed adjacent to each other to form the loop." In other words, the closure member engages the elongate member at a plurality of spaced apart locations which are disposed adjacent to each other so as to form the loop and close the loop. As set forth in the specification, the closure member 24 actually brings the two ends of the elongate member 12 together such that a loop 22 is formed and closed. Col. 2, ¶ 27. The coil 112 of Levine as shown in Figure 3 does not engage the core wire 102 at a plurality of spaced apart locations which are disposed adjacent to each other to form and close the loop 104. Rather, the coil 112 of Levine engages the loop 104 at only a *single* location, as shown in Figure 3 such that the coil 112 of Levine *does not close and form the loop* 104 as required by claim 1. In fact, Levine discloses a loop 104 that is formed without the coil 112. Levine, Col. 4, ll. 18-24. The coil 112 merely contacts the base of the loop 104 at a single location. The coil 112 ties auxiliary fibers 110 onto the core wire 112. Levine, Col. 3, ll. 44-48. Accordingly, Levine fails to teach each and every limitation of amended claim 1.

Moreover, the device disclosed in Levine is a snare—not a wire guide. The snare in operation retrieves a vaso-occlusive coil by intertwining the fibrous filaments 508 with the vaso-occlusive coil 504. Levine, Col. 6, ll. 12-56, Figs. 5A-5D.

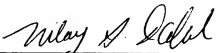
Accordingly, for the reasons described above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable. Likewise, claims 2, 5-7, 9, 10, and 19-24 which are dependent from claim 1 are also allowable. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of these claims.

CONCLUSION

The rejections in the Office Action dated May 16, 2007 have been addressed and no new matter has been added. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if it would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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